

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, with the new health care bill that spends \$1 trillion and creates over 100 new bureaucracies and projects, I believe all the focus is in the wrong place.

The bill still raises taxes on small business, hitting many with a 5.4 percent surtax when they are struggling in a tough economy. The bill imposes a new tax on medical devices, which will increase costs for patients by adding costs on hearing aids, bandages, and wheelchairs. This will also result in lost jobs for medical technology companies that employ over 20,000 people in my State of Minnesota.

The bill will hurt seniors with \$500 billion of cuts to Medicare, including eliminating Medicare Advantage programs for over 19,000 seniors in my district. Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't ram through a 2,000-page bill on the backs of small businesses and seniors.

There is a better way. We should be working on commonsense reforms that will actually lower premiums for families, individuals, and small businesses.

GOLDSTONE REPORT

(Mr. McMAHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Resolution 687, which condemns the United Nations Human Rights Council-passed Resolution 9/L.1 and the fact-finding mission which led to the Goldstone Report. The lopsidedly anti-Israel Goldstone Report blatantly ignored so much of what came before Operation Cast Lead.

Palestinian troops, including Hamas, have been responsible for launching more than 10,000 rockets and mortars at Israeli cities. In November 2008 alone, over 120 rockets and mortars were fired at Israeli cities, injuring hundreds of people. Furthermore, Israel did all it could to avoid causing civilian casualties and Hamas did all it could to cause them. Goldstone's mission failed because this simple truth was never acknowledged, confirmed or written.

Israel is our fellow democracy, our true and tried ally. Supporting it is essential to the stability of the Middle East.

Any democracy that chooses to treat Israel as a suspect state to impose on Israel false accusations and daunting deadlines for a peace agreement should know that its actions ultimately do damage to the shared values that all democracies espouse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Congress of the United States to stand against the Goldstone Report.

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THE TALE OF TWO LAWS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker: It came on two pages, It has withstood the ages; The word "shall," is only 10 times mentioned,

But enough to get one's attention. No taxes did this law raise, To this day it continues to create much praise;

Two great religions does it claim, The "Law of the Ten Commandments" is its name.

A current writing, 1,990 pages long, Has a socialist philosophy that is all wrong;

Difficult for the people to understand,

And troubling what big government doth demand.

Over 3,445 "shalls" it does loudly shout,

New massive taxes does it proudly tout;

Written in secret by the bureaucrats, For exclusive use of the taxacrats.

The Congressional bill called "Health Care Reform,"

Is illusionary, the authors are still ill-informed;

Government ought not take over America's health biz,

And that's just the way it is.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ENGEL. Well, as President Ronald Reagan used to say, there you go again. The same crowd that opposed Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s, who told us that that would bring socialized medicine to the United States, are now opposing health care for all, saying once again it will bring socialized medicine and all kinds of ills.

We have 46 million or 47 million Americans that don't have health coverage, and that will grow to 50 million, 60 million, and 70 million, so people that have coverage now will lose their coverage if we do nothing.

So this Democratic majority is going to do something. We are going to pass a comprehensive health care bill that will ensure that virtually all Americans will have health care. We are going to pass a bill that will make sure that the insurance companies can't refuse to cover you because they say you have a preexisting condition. We are going to make it so the insurance companies don't continue to collude amongst themselves to keep health care premiums high. We are going to make it so that we have affordable health care for all for the American people.

The American people should reject the lies and scares and fear tactics. We are going to have health care for all, and it is going to be good for the American people.

DOING BETTER ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. ROSKAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, a couple of minutes ago there was a Member on the Democratic side who I sensed had a twinkle in his eye when he was trying to make the assertion that there were no Republican alternatives to this bill, because anybody that has been around this place knows that that is a joke. There are 50 Republican bills and 100 amendments that were offered by Republicans, so the notion that the GOP is showing up late is complete nonsense, and I think the twinkle in the eye is witness to that.

But here is the part that is no joke. The part that is no joke is that this bill, Mr. Speaker, creates 111 new bureaucracies that Speaker PELOSI is going to foist on our constituents.

We all know what it is like to get the constituent panic call when they can't navigate through some labyrinthian bureaucracy, and now there is going to be 111 new offices, departments, commissions and so forth that our constituents are going to have to deal with. They are ill-equipped to deal with an aggressive Federal Government that is going to take over one-sixth of the economy.

We can do better. Let's vote against this bill.

A BETTER WAY TO REFORM HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, there are so many different reasons why the American people are opposing the "Pelosi Government Takeover of Your Health Care" bill: 111 different offices, bureaus, commissions, and programs to get between you and your doctor, preventing you from getting the health care you need when you need it; 3,425 uses of the word "shall," to ensure that bureaucrats take away your choices and drive up your health care costs; \$150 billion cut from the Medicare Advantage program, endangering seniors who rely upon the program.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me give you 1 trillion more reasons to oppose this plan: a minimum \$1 trillion cost, on a country that is already going bankrupt. We have had our first \$1 trillion deficit. Under President Obama, we will triple—triple—the national debt in just the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot improve a nation's health care by bankrupting it, its families, and its children. This must be rejected.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE THAT AMERICANS DESERVE

(Mr. McHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the American people continue to reject the notion that when it comes to health care, government knows best. Except this Congress and this Speaker of the House reject that. They say government can do whatever it darn well pleases. So we are presented with a 1,990-page bill that redefines health care and one-sixth of our economy.

Hundreds of millions of Americans will be forced out of their current plans. Medicare cuts will mean fewer benefits to seniors. Bureaucrats will restrict health care services. Taxpayers will fund abortion. Illegal immigrants will receive taxpayer-funded benefits. Federal and State taxes will go up as a result, and furthermore, the cost to health care will continue to rise.

There is a better way, a different plan than the Pelosi health care bill. That is what I will support. It will control the cost of health care by capping medical malpractice lawsuits and help individuals get the type of health care that they truly deserve.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. This bill represents tireless negotiation, compromise, and input from Americans all across the country. We have been trying to reform our health care system since Harry Truman's Presidency, so this bill by no means represents brand new ideas; rather, it has been a work in progress for decades.

Attempts to reform our health care system in the past have failed because of false claims that this is socialized medicine. And, of course, these are the same arguments that the bill's opponents are making today. But it won't work this time because the American people are tired of unaffordable premiums, of unfairly losing coverage, and the fine print that prevents them from getting the care they need. It gives the power back to the patient by creating a more transparent, more competitive health insurance market.

In a country as wealthy as ours, no one should have to face losing their life or seriously compromising their health because they cannot access, cannot afford, or have been denied health care coverage.

REFORMING HEALTH CARE IN AN UNDERSTANDABLE WAY

(Mrs. EMERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, before we debate the 1,990-page health care bill that my colleagues and I are all trying to read this week, let me share

with you how this bill defines a check-up, known in this legislation as a "primary care service." I will quote from page 1,056.

"The term 'primary care services' means evaluation and management services, without regard to the specialty of the physician furnishing the services, that are procedure codes (for services covered under title XVIII) for services in the category designated Evaluation and Management in the Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (established by the Secretary under section 1848(c)(5) as of December 31, 2009, and as subsequently modified by the Secretary)."

Now, that is a checkup. And all that section of the bill really says is we are going to define it in the future.

If I have time, Mr. Speaker, I try to read every bill, and as this legislation goes, it is pretty darn complicated. But what we need to accomplish is very simple: We need to lower the costs of health care in order to improve access to the system. It doesn't take 1,990 pages. We could do it in 19 pages. And we ought to do it in terms that the American public can understand.

DEMAND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ABORTION BE BANNED IN ANY HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the administration and congressional Democrats are currently wheeling and dealing behind closed doors attempting a government takeover of our Nation's health care system. Additionally, the Democrat scheme provides a back door to allow for the government funding of abortion.

Since 1976, Federal funds have been barred from being used for abortions, and Democrats are refusing to continue this policy. Some of my colleagues will tell you their plan doesn't fund abortion, yet, on page 171, section 303 states that at least one plan participating through the new government-run exchange must cover abortion services. In addition, the bill contains explicit language saying "nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing" the public option from paying for all elective abortions.

The public option will be a Federal program using Federal funds. The American taxpayers will be forced to send part of their hard-earned dollars to Washington every year to end the life of an unborn child.

I call on my colleagues in this House to demand that Federal funding for abortion is banned in any and all forms of health care funding.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THE RIGHT WAY

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, isn't it ironic that as many Americans are celebrating the freedom to choose by casting votes across America on this election day, the House will begin consideration of a bill that threatens the freedom to choose their own health care plans.

The Pelosi bill will allow government takeover, raises taxes on hardworking Americans and small businesses, and get this, takes away half a trillion dollars worth of health care from our seniors. It includes a tax on wheelchairs, hearing aids, and pacemakers.

This is not the right solution to improve our health care system. What we need is real improvement, and that is let's lower the costs; real medical malpractice reform; lower the risk pools by allowing small businesses to band together; allow people to purchase insurance across State lines; allow States to create high-risk pools that lower the cost and provide coverage for uninsured and underinsured.

We must work together to get this done for the good of Americans across this country.

HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, when we come to real health reform, we need to take cost out, not add it, as this monstrosity of a bill does. There is consensus in the House for real reform that would reengineer the Center for Medicare Services to bring it into this century, provide real private market reform, and end junk lawsuits once and for all against our doctors.

But Speaker PELOSI permits none of this, squelching over 45 real health care reform bills that have been introduced. Instead, the Pelosi bill is based on a job-killing \$800 billion tax on small businesses that the Obama administration says will cost 5 million jobs, cuts senior benefits by half a trillion dollars doing so-called reform on the backs of seniors, and creates 111 new government agencies. That is not reform.

Let's stop this bill, go back to square one, and give the American people what they are demanding, which is the protection of their health freedom and real reform today.

TAKING AWAY FREEDOM TO CHOOSE YOUR HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, freedom to choose your own health care plan is what is at stake here. The drumbeat for entitlement, for government control of health care, for a health choice commissioner who will decide himself